

Senator DeCamp says there is a separate law for labor unions and therefore it is not the same thing but if there were a separate law, in fact, that was effective he wouldn't have been in here with this amendment. The rule of statutory construction is that when there is a specific law that applies to a specific instance, that will always take precedence over a general law that applies to a general area. So if there is a specific law in labor organizations that would take precedence over this law even if we passed it and Senator DeCamp's amendment wouldn't be necessary but they are in here with this amendment because obviously they are worried that it may well be necessary. And if it is necessary for labor unions, they are in the same situation as agricultural interests and if this bill gets back on Final Reading I am going to put in an amendment for business interests because certainly business interests are as legitimate as agricultural interests or labor interests. Again, let me point out what we are doing. We are looking at the purpose of the organization and saying these are legitimate purposes. They shouldn't be harassed by this law. Members of the Legislature, I submit to you that there are a lot of other legitimate purposes besides the ones that we are trying to narrowly define here because the lobbying groups are in trying to protect themselves. Please, look to the general effect of the law. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is the opportunity to heal the so-called urban-rural split. The urban amendment could be considered the one that exempted the labor unions and if the farm organizations do have a legitimacy and ought to exist and they can be shown to carry on activities that are beneficial to agriculture which is the lifeblood of the state, they certainly ought to be given an equal status and perhaps this would give them a type of statutory recognition which heretofore they have not enjoyed. I say again what I said in the beginning. At the very beginning, even in the Judiciary Committee hearing, that this is not a good bill but if there is an insistence on taking a bad piece of legislation, running it through the Legislature, wasting time and money to put it into the statute books, then as many people as possible can be protected from the atrocity ought to be protected and along that line I owe Judiciary Counsel John Goc an apology. John Goc, wherever you are, I apologize for indicating that you drafted that Section 2 as an amendment. It was drafted by Alan Peterson who represents the media of whatever he represents. So John Goc is not the one who drafted that piece of bad legislation.